

This petition has the most merit of those that I have read. I fully believe that the long-term development of the Amateur Radio Service will continue to benefit from the development of Morse Code capability by amateur radio operators. It is a part of the Amateur Radio tradition and is a mark of the professionalism which has historically been the pride of the Amateur Service.

Furthermore, the recent decline in the quality of technical understanding among amateur radio operators can only be ameliorated by implementing the recommendations regarding the General and Extra Class examinations and the re-institution of the Commission's qualification standards, as described in this petition. Admittedly, it is a return to an earlier time, but it was a time of technical expertise and courtesy which have been eclipsed in recent years.

I would, however, recommend retaining the VEC structure and organization to lessen the burden experienced by examinees in the past. VECs and VEs augment the Commission's resources and provide a very worthwhile service to Amateurs, prospective Amateurs, and the public.